The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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FORCED INSURANCE IS NOT DEMOCRATIC

Washington, Jan. 6.—Social insurance by force is not democratic, even though it be disguised as compulsory benevolence, writes President Gompers in the current issue of the American Federationist.

"Compulsory social insurance cannot be administered," he says, "without exercising some control over wage earners. This is the meat of the whole matter. Industrial freedom exists only when wage earners have complete control over their labor power. To delegate control over their labor power to an outside agency takes away from the economic power of those wage earners and creates another agency for power. Whoever has control of this new agency acquires some degree of control over the workers. There is nothing to guarantee control over that agency to the employed. It may also be controlled by employers. In other words, giving the government control over industrial relations creates a fulcrum which means great power for an unknown user.

"Compulsory social insurance is in its essence undemocratic. The first step in establishing social insurance is to divide people into two groups—those eligible for benefits and those considered capable to care for themselves. The division is based upon wage earning capacity. This governmental regulation tends to fix the citizens of the country into classes, and a long-established insurance system would tend to make these classes rigid.

"There is in our country more voluntary social insurance than in any other country of the world. We have institutions whereby voluntary insurance could be increased. It is true that in many of these institutions there are evils, but the cure for these evils is to make insurance companies organize for mutual benefit and to provide proper regulation and control, and, in addition, if those who really have the welfare of wage earners at heart will turn their activities and their influence toward securing for wage earners the opportunity to organize, there will be no problems, no suffering and no need that will necessitate the consideration of benevolent assistance of a compulsory character."

FARMERS OPPOSE INJUNCTION.

Spokane, Wash., Jan. 6.—The organized farmers of this state are against the labor injunction. At the convention of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of Washington these agriculturists declared:

"We condemn the use of a restraining order or injunction in labor disputes save where it can be clearly shown, after a hearing represented by both parties, that the ordinary processes of law will not avail to protect life or property, and hold in all contempt cases for violation of any injunctive order a trial by jury should be had, except when jury is waived by the accused."

The convention also declared for such restrictions of the power of the courts as shall leave to the people the ultimate authority to determine fundamental questions of social welfare and public policy.

"We demand of our legislature and courts," continue the resolutions, "constant recognition of the principle guaranteed to all by the Declaration of Independence in the right of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—to hold human rights superior to property rights."

DEFENDS ADAMSON LAW.

Indianapolis, Jan. 6.—Editor Dobson, of the Bricklayer, Mason and Plasterer, presents this defense and explanation of the Adamson law:

"First of all, it is not a wage-increase law. Its operation gives the railroad worker the opportunity to complete his day's labor in eight hours because he can make his hundred-mile or less run within the prescribed number of hours by reason of the fact that the railroad companies will cut down abnormally long freight trains to such size that a dozen instead of one-half that number of miles are made an hour. This is all the railroad worker asks. He does not want long hours and delays en route; neither does he want overtime pay, except only as a penalty to put a stop to the practice of piling on all the cars an engine can draw under favorable conditions.

"When the Adamson law becomes operative the railroad train service worker will enjoy his home and home life like a man, while the shipper, the merchant and the general public will be benefited materially in that much time now lost will be gained in transportation."

"REFUSED TO ARBITRATE."

Cleveland, Jan. 6.—The Locomotive Engineers' Journal is making merry with those people who denounce train service men for refusing to arbitrate an eight-hour demand.

Recently Ashtabula, Ohio, doctors called a meeting of their organization and raised prices.

The railroad men's paper says:

"Of course it is not a question for arbitration, it is a public pill the people may take or suffer the consequences.

"If it were a labor organization, the next state legislature would doubtless be confronted with petitions to make them submit to compulsory arbitration, but the doctors have the best of it—their organization obtained a law driving all the scab medicine-mongers out of the state.

"What a difference there is in whose ox is gored!"

TRADE UNIONISTS ASSAULTED.

LaSalle, Ill., Jan. 6.—A. F. of L. Organizers Chubbuck and Whennen were assaulted by thugs, presumably in the employ of a cement company, whose workers have been on strike since last May. Whennen was shot in the thigh.

The cement workers formed a union to end the 11 and 13-hour workday. The company discharged the union's officials and a strike resulted. The strikers declare that working in a cement mill is a tough job under any circumstances, even when an eight-hour day prevails, but when men are forced to endure 13 hours of heart-breaking, lung destroying labor in the dust cloud of a cement plant, it is inhuman.

BAD CONDITIONS AFFECT ALL.

Syracuse, N. Y., Jan. 6.—In an address to the Central Trades and Labor Assembly on the necessity for Americanizing the immigrant, Supreme Court Justice Crouch said that bad conditions in one part of a city or nation, like malignant disease, breeds bad conditions all over, and the foreign-born cannot be huddled together in insanitary surroundings in one part of a city without injuring the whole city.

PICKET THREE MONTHS; WIN.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 6.—After a restaurant was picketed three months by union cooks who demanded the six-day week, the proprietor finally concluded that seven days a week is not a humane rule.

JUDGE-MADE OLIGARCHY CHECKS MAN'S FREEDOM

Chicago, Jan. 6.—Judges have erected a judicial oligarchy that can and must be destroyed, writes President Perkins, of the Cigar Makers' International union, in the official journal of that organization.

"An oligarchy means a government by the few over the many; it is an autocracy and not a democracy," he says.

"A single federal judge exercises more power than congress and the executive. The liberties, rights and duties guaranteed by the constitution are set aside under injunction proceedings. The right of free speech, of assemblage and of moral suasion are denied and blotted out of the constitution by the edict of one judge.

"A federal judge, appointed for life by the president of the United States, annuls a law passed by the house of representatives, the senate and the president, with a stroke of the pen. The right to annul laws passed by any legislature or congress was not conferred upon the judiciary. There is not a single section in the constitution granting such an unprecedented power upon a few lawyers elevated to the judiciary. It is usurpation, pure and simple.

"The people, the final arbiters in a democracy, have not elected them; they have not chosen them as their judicial agents, and have no power, owing to the life tenure of the office, to defeat them for re-election.

"The leading members of the American Bar association, composed of prominent corporation lawyers, have frequently lauded the judicial oligarchy as the greatest institution on the face of the globe.

"The highest American courts, to all intents and purposes, have abrogated to themselves the veto power, from which there is no appeal. Denunciations and threats of impeachment will not remedy this growing evil. An amendment to the constitution, abrogating the power of the courts to set aside laws, is the only practical solution that can be applied."

CAR MEN'S WAGES RAISED.

Detroit, Jan. 6.—Wages of the 500 motormen and conductors employed by the Michigan United Railway company are raised $75,000 a year by an arbitration award that was dissented from by the company's representative, who declared that the company cannot pay the new rates and that "an impossible situation is created."

The majority of the board refused to accept this pessimistic view and ordered that rates, beginning the first of the year, shall be as follows:

City lines—First six months, 28 cents an hour; second six months, 29 cents; first year, 31 cents; thereafter, 32 cents. The old rates were 23, 24 and 26 cents respectively.

Interurban lines—First six months, 32 cents an hour; thereafter, 35 cents. The old interurban scale was 27 cents an hour for the first year, 29 cents for the second year and 30 cents thereafter.

The decision is retroactive and the men will be paid from June 1 last under the new scale. The company controls several city and interurban lines in southern Michigan.

UNIONISM NEEDED HERE.

Fort Worth, Tex., Jan. 6.—In his monthly report President Cunningham of the state federation of labor makes the following reference to lumber conditions in the eastern part of this state:

"While in Orange I learned of a condition existing in the lumber camps that is deplorable to say the least. The unskilled laborers in that industry have not had an advance in wages nor a change in hours of labor or conditions of employment in 25 years, and yet we are told the lumber interests are making no profits or dividends. The public knows how the price of lumber has increased during this period. Surely it was not the high price of labor that increased the price of this commodity."

"CHARITY" DOLERS SCORED.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Jan. 6.—The federation of labor has investigated the Social Welfare league, an organization that dispenses charity with the most approved card-index system. It is shown that the league's red tape and "nice fat jobs for the reformers" cost $25,000 a year, against a charge of $3,800 a few years ago. It was stated that "no criminal, no matter how bad, is required to give as much information about himself as is required for the league's records." It is claimed that when a person applies to the league for charity he is questioned closely and if it is found that he has relatives in any part of the country he must wait for relief until these parties are communicated with. It is declared that this system was copied from eastern cities.

CARPENTERS WANT MORE.

Jackson, Mich., Jan. 6.—Carpenters' union has voted to raise wages from 45 to 55 cents an hour. Other demands will include the Saturday half holiday and pay on the job, instead of waiting around Saturday evening to suit the convenience of the contractor.

Minneapolis, Jan. 6.—The Fleisher Construction company has signed an agreement with the Carpenters' union. The firm is one of the largest of its kind in this section of the country and fought these unionists and other organized building craftsmen for over six months.

UNIONISM ENDED SUNDAY WORK.

Saint Joseph, Mo., Jan. 6.—"It was the Journeymen Barbers' union that emancipated the men from Sunday slavery and exceedingly long hours," said Organizer Shanessy at an open meeting of Barbers' union.

"The day of individualism is passed and the time for unified effort is here," he said. "No one man can bring about shorter hours of employment, higher wages or improved sanitary conditions in the barber shops. It must be done by the concerted efforts of those most interested."

UNION SHOP RECOGNIZED.

Dallas, Tex., Jan. 6.—The Builders' association, representing all the large contracting firms in this city, has signed a two-years' union shop agreement with the Building Trades Council. Only members of organized labor will hereafter be employed by these concerns.

CLERKS' UNIONS TO UNITE.

San Francisco, Jan. 6.—A call has been issued by the various locals of clerks in this vicinity to form a district council. A greater degree of unity is possible if the retail clerks, grocery clerks and other workers in this calling will act through a central organization.

DAIRY WORKERS UNITE.

Seattle, Wash., Jan. 6.—Dairy and creamery workers have organized a federal union and will be chartered directly by the A. F. of L.

FREEDOM MUST NOT BE SURRENDERED

By PRESIDENT GOMPERS, IN AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST.

It is proposed that congress enact a law to prevent wage earners from agreeing to quit work collectively. In other words, legislation is proposed to limit or deny the right of concerted action to inaugurate a strike. However, every one knows that the effect of the proposed legislation would be to deny individuals the right to stop working at will, or stated conversely, the law would compel workers to remain at work under conditions against which they protest—a condition which is in no way different from slavery.

The only way to make the protest of workers effective is concerted action. For one or two railroad men to leave their positions because they could not secure the eight-hour workday would accomplish but little in inducing the railroad corporations to agree to shorten hours of work. The only thing that can make the railroad companies see the reasonableness of the eight-hour workday is to make them appreciate the economic power of their employes.

The plain purpose of the legislation is to make strikes illegal. This is completely at variance with the whole trend of industrial development and recent legislation enacted by congress. Practically all of the people of our country have now grasped the fact that a strike is not a crime. There must be a complete revulsion of feeling if they endorse the proposal in congress which will make strikes crimes. If strikes are declared crimes, it will then be necessary to impose severe penalties in order to enforce the purpose of the law. The purpose and method of the legislation are reactionary. To make strikes illegal means to hold a prison before the eyes of the workers and to force them to work at the command of employers.

The workers throughout the entire country are fully aroused to the dangers contained in this proposed "compulsory investigation" plan. These dangers have awakened them to full appreciation of a fundamental principle. Workers can not delegate to outside authority, even though that authority be the government, the right to regulate industrial relations without creating an opportunity for a continuous infringement upon their rights and freedom. The railroad brotherhoods, like all organizations affiliated to the American labor movement, have opposed the legislative method as the way to secure a shorter workday and higher wages, but the situation was such that the railroad brotherhoods yielded to the policy of the government and accepted the Adamson law. But just as soon as the government acquired the right to regulate the hours of work for railroad employes, it at once began to augment its powers, to provide regulations for other relations, and to limit the right to quit work. The experience illustrates the danger to which the American Federation of Labor has repeatedly called attention.

The industrial freedom of wage earners depends upon their keeping control over industrial relations within their own hands. Once delegate even a particle of that authority to the government and they limit their freedom and forge a chain that retards normal free action in all lines. The tendency of government is always to increase its power and scope of action. An immense coercive power would thereby be created which would mark the decay of industrial freedom.

Economic power is the only agency which the workers have for self-protection and self-betterment. They must retain that power and oppose every effort that would take from them their birthright as free workers—free citizens.

RIGHT TO QUIT WORK IS A FREE MAN'S RIGHT

Advocates of compulsory investigation and all other forms of "can't-strike" laws were answered as follows by the Baltimore convention of the A. F. of L., November, 1916:

"Resolved, That men individually or collectively have a right to stop work any day or any time in a free democracy, and that their right is natural, legal, inalienable, and never should be surrendered; and that laws that violate this right are hereby denounced as reactionary, unconstitutional, and dangerous to the stability of democratic government."

CUBAN WORKERS WIN STRIKE

Havana, Jan. 6.—A strike against the Cuban Railroad company has been settled by an agreement between the company and its employes. This railroad controls 600 miles of track in Eastern Cuba. When its employes tried to form a union they were discharged and a general strike ensued. Nearly 250 strikebreakers were imported from the United States in direct violation of Cuban law. Two-thirds of the strikebreakers did not know that they were coming to break a strike and were sent back home when they refused to work.

Cuban unionists notified President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor and that official notified affiliated organizations of conditions here.

The strike on the Havana Central railroad is still on.

The Cuban sugar crop this year amounted to 3,500,000 tons, with the selling price three times as great as that of three years ago. The workers are receiving the same wages, year after year, in spite of increased living costs, and strikes naturally follow.

President Gompers visited Havana last week, and El Mundo (The World), a daily paper, said:

"The arrival of this well-known North American leader gives actual importance to the strike movement. Most assuredly the visit of Mr. Gompers to our country will lead to magnificent results in the organization of the workers of Cuba and the unification of all the workers of America."

UNIONISM BIGGEST FACTOR.

Lancaster, England, Jan. 6.—Trade unionism is a bigger factor in wage increases than skill, muscular power or risks of occupation, says Secretary Hindle, of the Burnley Weavers' association, in a circular on benefits of organization. The union official writes:

"What determines the rates of wages paid to workers? Is it the degree of skill that the work involves? No! Weaving probably requires as much skill as laying bricks, but the bricklayer receives one-third more wages for the time worked. Are rates of wages decided, then, by the quantity of physical power that is exerted in the work? Again, No! The navvy's work is as laborious as the miner's, but the miner is paid about twice as much as the navvy. Are wages dependent upon the risks of personal injury or of loss of life? Once more, No! The dangers of the mine and of the sea used to be much greater than now, and when the dangers were greater the wages of miners and seamen were less than now. Are wages in some trades higher than in others because employers in some trades are more humane than employers in others? Think of the colliery owners, manufacturers, master plumbers and painters, contractors, etc., that are known to you by repute, and you will be able to answer this question for yourselves. The truth is that skill, muscular power, risks of occupation, count for less than is commonly admitted in establishing standards of wages. Why the unorganized workers fare so badly is simply because they are unorganized."

OPPOSE CONVICT LEASING.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 6.—Opposition to the convict leasing system in Missouri was recorded by the executive board of the state federation of labor at its meeting in this city. It was recommended that two farms of 1,000 acres each be purchased, on which part of the convicts shall be employed. Work on public roads and in the manufacture of articles for state use was also favored.

The legislature will be asked to "put teeth" in a law requiring mine operators to provide bathing facilities for their employes. This law has been evaded by the erection of a few sheds, without water or equipment, which are called "wash houses."

WOMEN SET FOOD PRICES.

Waco, Tex., Jan. 6.—As a means of checking the advancing prices of foodstuffs, about 250 women have joined a housewives' league and have fixed a maximum price for poultry, butter and eggs. These prices are 40 cents a pound for butter, 35 cents a dozen for eggs and 17 cents a pound for turkeys. The women are pledged not to purchase these products when prices are above the maximum. The agreement is to continue in force for one month, or until such time as prices decline.

Trade unionists are hopeful the women will extend their unity idea.

MEAT CUTTERS ORGANIZE.

Port Arthur, Tex., Jan. 6.—Meat cutters in this city have tired of the seven-day week and to end the practice have organized local No. 608 of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen.

A union of teamsters has also been organized and the bakers, cooks and waiters are discussing the advantages of trade unionism.

WAITERS WORK LONG HOURS.

New Haven, Conn., Jan. 6.—Waiters in this city have organized to reduce their working hours, which range from 12 to 16 hours a day seven days a week.

MILK DRIVERS ORGANIZING.

Sacramento, Cal., Jan. 6.—Milk drivers are organizing to enforce daylight delivery and other improved working conditions.

WHY FORCED ARBITRATION FOR WORKING MEN ONLY?

Sioux City, Iowa, Jan. 6.—The Union Advocate demands consistency. It can't understand why the theory of compulsory arbitration should be urged for working men only. If it is good for industrial disputes, why not for every other economic and social dispute, asks Editor Bastian, who is irreverent enough to even suggest that judges in this city who request a $1,500 yearly increase be forced to submit to arbitration.

This labor editor illustrates his point—and puts the shoe on the other foot—thusly:

"Why should there be any opportunity for industrial disputes arbitration unless it should be recognized the people also could have arbitration when egg prices go beyond reason? Also wheat, flour and all commodities, the lawyer's fees, the doctor's fees, the price of a house and lot, the rent the poor man has to pay, the interest of the money borrower, the railroad fare, or anything we buy."

UNIONISTS WILL FACE FOES.

Seattle, Wash., Jan. 6.—The Central Labor Council rejected a proposal to ask officials of the state federation of labor what steps have been taken to protect delegates to the state federation of labor convention, which meets in Everett, January 22.

Vice President Short of the state body said:

"It would be an insult to labor to ask protection of the Commercial club, which is the only power in Everett competent to give it. Labor don't want that protection and don't need it. Conditions are such in Everett that they demand the convention be held there. No other body of citizens can do so much to restore constitutional government to that benighted community as the sane, practical representatives of the working class in their state convention. Nothing more helpful to the Commercial club in their fight on organized labor could well be imagined than the proposal to remove the convention from that city. It would be a confession of cowardice that would be held up to the ridicule of the entire world by the employing interests. Labor doesn't need to toady, and they do not need nor will they ask for protection. We will go to Everett and stay in Everett until the constitutional guarantees are established."

The shingle weavers are still on strike in Everett, despite the high-handed tactics of mill owners, business men and county officials. These workers demand a wage scale paid in other sections of the state.

POVERTY PLEA FAILS.

Beardstown, Ill., Jan. 6.—The Evening Record calls attention to the annual report of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, which shows revenues for the past year were $102,359,000, an increase over the previous year of $11,234,000, or 12 per cent. The operating expenses were $61,713,000, an increase of but 2 per cent over the previous year.

"This leaves an increase of 10 per cent for the company," says the Evening Record. "Yet, when the men who work, must work all kinds of weather at risk of life and limb, ask for a small share of the increased profits, in the form of an increase in wages or better working conditions, they raise a howl about no money, cry for an increase in rates and try to make the public believe they are on the verge of starvation."

PAROLE LAW IS VALID.

New York, Jan. 6.—The constitutionality of the state parole law was upheld last week by Supreme Court Justice Greenbaum, who declared that this legislation "is the result of a progressive and humanitarian movement designed to benefit the prisoner and society and comes well within the police powers of the state. It aims by humane and sympathetic treatment to elevate the standards of the criminal, giving due heed to his mental and moral deficiencies, and thereby lessen criminality in the community."

MINERS OPPOSE BONUS SYSTEM.

Coaldale, Pa., Jan. 6.—The bonus system of the Lehigh Coal & Navigation company is denounced as a "sweating" process by members of the United Mine Workers' union, who say the men are speeded up to reach a certain figure and then the company reduces the working force and insists that the record be maintained.

RIGHT TO QUIT IS PARAMOUNT.

Kansas City, Kan., Jan. 6.—"Compulsory investigation, like compulsory arbitration, reduced to its last analysis means only involuntary servitude or slavery," says the Boiler Makers' Journal. "We are going to insist on a continuance of our right to quit work at any time, for any reason or no reason, alone or in company with our fellow workers."

PAINTERS WOULD RAISE WAGES.

Seattle, Wash., Jan. 6.—Painters' union No. 300 has voted to demand wage increases, beginning April 1. Present rates are $4.50 a day and the painters will ask for $5.30. This will be their first increase since 1906.

WILL OUTLAW JOB SELLING

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 6.—Trade unionists are interesting many employers in the job selling practice of foremen by which foreigners are victimized. There is no law to reach these extorters and the workers will ask the legislature to act.

Last summer the state industrial commission issued a special report on this evil, which was declared the "worst possible type of industrial slavery, and it is small wonder that the much exploited immigrant often feels bitter, and that sometimes this bitterness manifests itself in acts of violence during the excitement incident to a strike. What respect can the immigrant be expected to have for organized society which permits such conditions to exist?"

The state investigators declared that the payment of fees to foremen for furnishing jobs is a well established custom in a number of plants in this state. The employes paying these fees are almost always non-English speaking foreigners, and those who profit from the fees are usually English speaking, and generally of a different race from those who are exploited.

"If the immigrant, when he gets his first job in an industrial plant," it is stated, "must pay to a trusted employe of the company, who is often apparently a man of standing in the community, a fee for the privilege of working, why do we express wonder that any one should place a money value upon the franchise after he has secured the right to vote, or why should we be surprised that the more radical ones should express lack of confidence in our courts of law and other institutions?"

The commission is not inclined to exonerate employers from blame. They state that it is "almost inconceivable" that this reprehensible practice could be carried on under the very eyes of the general officers of any company without some knowledge of the fact on their part.

U. S. PAPER MILL FAVORED.

Washington, Jan. 6.—The establishment of a government paper mill is recommended by a sub-committee of the joint committee on printing of congress. It is stated that the government uses 30,000,000 pounds of paper annually and that the difficulties encountered in securing paper promptly at reasonable prices should cause immediate consideration to the establishment of a government-owned plant.

"Such a mill," the committee continues, "will afford facilities for the commercial demonstration of the value of wastes of all kinds for paper making, on which materials the government has spent considerable sums annually, and with which demonstration on a commercial scale is possible. Again, a government plant will furnish unlimited opportunities for studies in the commercial utilization and disposal of paper mill wastes. These wastes embrace at least half of the raw materials used in making paper, and are a menace to the public health as well as a detriment to industrial development."

VALUE OF UNIONISM SHOWN.

Seattle, Wash., Jan. 6.—Editor Ault of the Union Record contributes this bon mot to the unorganized:

"The Puget Sound Traction, Light & Power company has raised the wages of its employes 1 cent per hour. The employes of this company are unorganized and have consistently refused to form into a union. The raise in pay may be said to be a reward for faithful service—but it is worthy of note that the employes of the Seattle, Renton & Southern Railway company, who are organized, are getting 1 cent an hour more than the unorganized street car men and have better working conditions all around."

BUSINESS BOYCOTT IS LEGAL.

San Francisco, Jan. 6.—The Supreme Court of California has ruled that it is lawful for an employe discharged by a firm to solicit trade of former customers for a competing firm.

An employe of the New Method laundry was discharged and then induced customers of that concern to patronize a company with which he was connected. The first-named laundry secured an injunction to stop this practice, but the supreme court rules that the employe is within the law.

OCCUPATIONAL ILLS EXCLUDED.

Hartford, Conn., Jan. 6.—The state supreme court has ruled that the Connecticut workmen's compensation law does not include occupational ills.

Trade unionists have assumed for some time that the court would take this position and have been conducting an agitation in favor of amending the law to include occupational diseases.

FIGHTING INJUNCTION WRIT.

Lansing, Mich., Jan. 6.—A petition two miles long and bearing the signatures of 84,000 qualified voters will be presented to the state legislature by the state federation of labor to impress upon the lawmakers the necessity for regulating the issuance of injunction writs during strike times.

GRANTS WAGE INCREASES.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 5.—The city council has raised wages of laborers from $2.25 to $2.50 a day and caretakers of the comfort stations from $45 to $55 a month.

RAILROAD PENSIONS NOT BASED ON JUSTICE

Salt Lake City, Utah, Jan. 6.—Editor Moore of the Utah Labor News, official paper of the state federation of labor, does not lose his head because the Harriman railroad system offers to provide bonuses, pensions and life insurance for its employes.

A local newspaper is in high glee over what it terms "the newer ethics in industry," but Editor Moore is cynical of the railroad's "ethical" impulses, and declares that this corporation is attempting to use craft and bribery in the hope that it will weaken the morale of the men in their demand for shorter hours.

"This newer ethics in industry," says the labor paper, "is something that should cause all self-respecting working men to pause before accepting. It constitutes a form of bribery which, if stated in its proper terms, would be punishable by fine and imprisonment. But being stated in terms that appeal to the 'finer sense' of the noblesse oblige, which the rich pride themselves on manifesting toward the poor slaves who have made them wealthy, it calls forth voluminous praise and is thoughtlessly considered perfectly proper.

"What the working people want is not favors, but rights, not charity, but justice. They do not want gifts and they do not want to be placed in the position where they have to accept these 'gifts' or else forfeit their opportunities of making an honest living for themselves and their families. Such is the present position of the employes of the Union Pacific system who are victims of the generosity of this great corporation, which, out of the unpaid earnings of its employes is graciously giving back a mere pittance under the guise of showing a magnanimous spirit toward their employes.

"As regards the Christmas bonus we see no objections to accepting it, since it constitutes an installment of the surplus earnings of each employe of which the company is making tardy payment. When the bonus is paid that ends the transaction, but the insurance and pension are fixed bonds of servitude which will bind the victim for life. The proposition to give bonuses at certain future dates is quite another matter and reminds one of the cartoon of the jackass with a tempting morsel of food so attached to his head as to be always in view, but just beyond reach.

"The bonuses are part earnings of employes used to impel them to remain with the company, and are on a par with insurance and pensions—they are bonds of thralldom."

TENANT FARMING INCREASES.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 6.—Advance of tenantry of farms in Ohio and other states in the central valley, was termed "disastrous" by Professor Vogt, department of rural economics, Ohio State University, in an address on "The Land Problems and Rural Welfare."

"The steady, even though not rapid, increase in tenantry," he said, "particularly in those sections where land values are highest, indicates the approach of problems most serious for those who will in future actually live on the farms.

"The rise in land values can mean only that ultimately the share of the income going to the landlord will increase through rising rents, or will become a permanent burden on the land through the price paid for it by the purchaser."

The speaker said the policy of planning tenant houses was the "perpetuation of a fundamentally bad condition."

"The better policy," he said, "would be to spend the energies of public agencies in removing the causes that have made the appearance of a tenant class in America possible."

OPPOSE STATE COSSACKS.

Utica, N. Y., Jan. 6.—There is danger of the state legislature establishing the cossack system, known as the state constabulary, warns Secretary-Treasurer Bates of the state federation of labor in a circular issued to every New York local. Last year this proposal was defeated by a few votes after the hardest kind of work by organized labor, and unionists are now urged to immediately acquaint legislators with labor's position on this subject.

"Those who are behind the movement to enact the law for this state," says the union official, "are making specious pleas and endeavoring to sugar-coat its bad points so that labor will swallow it. The New York State Federation of Labor has declared itself absolutely and unalterably opposed to a state police in any form."

WANT AN INJUNCTION.

Hartford, Conn., Jan. 6.—The Cohn & Roth Electric company has abandoned its claim for damages against the building trades unions of this city and will now be satisfied with an injunction restraining these workers "from interfering with their business," which means that the unionists must not persist in refusing to work for the company while it employs non-union labor.

The Hartford Building Trades Exchange is avowedly anti-union and is supporting the electric company which is attempting to disguise its hostility to organized labor by professing faith in the so-called "open shop." The unionists, however, refuse to be tricked by this term.

GAINS BY CIGAR MAKERS.

Chicago, Jan. 6.—The membership of the Cigar Makers' International union increased 5,478 between the months of January and November, 1916. On the latter date the total membership was 44,672. President Perkins states that about 15,000 of these workers have received wage increases, in many cases without resorting to strike.

Large numbers of unorganized cigar makers have likewise benefited because of the union's activity. This is especially true of the non-union shops that advertise themselves as "open shops."

BUTCHERS RAISE WAGES.

Oakland, Cal., Jan. 6.—Butcher Workmen's union No. 81 has signed an agreement with employers of Roslyn and Cle Elum which provides for wage increases of $1 a week and 7 o'clock closing on Saturday nights the year round instead of only during the three summer months. Employes must be outside of the shops 15 minutes after closing time.

WANT MORE SAFEGUARDS.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Jan. 6.—Anthracite miners will ask the legislature to provide better safeguards around the mines for life and limb and to increase compensation benefits from 50 to 66 2-3 per cent of earning power. Bituminous miners will assist in securing this legislation.

WILL TEST TWO-PLATOON PLAN.

New York, Jan. 6.—A committee of the board of aldermen has recommended that a six-months' test be given the two-platoon system in one of the divisions of the municipal fire department.

SCIENTIST FAVORS IMMIGRATION CHECK

New York, Jan. 6.—Before one of the sections of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Professor Robert DeC. Ward, of Harvard university, advocated restriction of immigration, asserting that otherwise millions of stricken and enfeebled men would come here after the European war. He said that it was in the highest degree un-American for the United States to permit an influx of alien immigrants, which would make the process of assimilation and amalgamation of the country's foreign population more difficult.

"By allowing and encouraging to come here after the war the discontented millions of Europe and Asia," he said, "are we likely to hasten or delay the coming of political and religious and social reforms in Armenia, Syria, Hungary, Poland and Turkey? As I see it, and my conviction is perfectly clear on this point, our duty as Americans, interested in the world-wide progress of education, of religious liberty, of democratic institutions, is to help the discontented millions of Europe and of Asia to stay in their own countries and to work out there, for themselves, what our forefathers worked out here for us. That would be the greatest contribution we could make to the preservation of American ideals.

"The least fit are most likely to emigrate. Many of those, who, because of mental or physical disability, will find themselves least able to earn a living abroad, will be the very ones most likely to be 'assisted' by relatives and friends in this country to come to America. Against the emigration of such persons the European governments will not set up any barriers. There are good grounds, therefore, for expecting, with reasonable certainty, that our immigration in the next few decades after the war will be of a lower physical and mental standard than it has been in the past."

Professor Ward said he was satisfied that the policy of the United States in admitting freely practically all who have wished to come and of encouraging them in every way to come, instead of helping the introduction of political, social, economic and educational reforms abroad, had delayed the progress of these movements. Had the millions of Europeans who came to this country remained at home they would have insisted upon the introduction of the reforms in their own countries, which have been delayed decade after decade because the discontent of Europe found a safety valve on flying to America.

DEATH RATE REDUCED.

San Francisco, Jan. 6.—In its report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1916, the industrial accident commission states that during 1915 there were 533 fatalities in California industry, 1,264 permanent injuries and 65,741 temporary injuries. The number of deaths was 158 less than the number reported in 1914.

The wage loss created by industrial injury in 1915 ran close to $18,250,000. The wage loss for the 65,741 temporary injuries was $2,142,000 and the time loss was equal to 2,380 years. The industry of transportation was again responsible for most deaths, 172 out of 533.

The commission deplores the system of insurance companies joining together to contract for medical service. As an outcome of this system it has been found there follows dissatisfaction among the injured, injustice and misunderstanding. The ideal situation is described as "cooperation of the commission, insurance companies, employers, injured men and the medical profession."

The commission makes a plea for more power to be vested in the state insurance commissioner so that financially irresponsible insurance companies may not inflict losses upon injured workers and the dependents of the killed.

MINES YIELD $3,000,000,000.

Washington, Jan. 6.—The claim that immigration restriction will affect production in America is refuted by the report of the geological survey for the year 1916, which shows that all records have been broken during this period despite the lessening of emigration because of the European war. Production, it is estimated, has run at least 25 per cent ahead of 1915. Iron contends with copper for first place among the metals produced and the production of coal was the greatest ever known. The mines sold 597,000,000 tons, compared with 570,000,000, the record established in 1913, or prior to the European war. The coke output, also, broke all records, increasing 27 per cent over the previous year. Arizona led all states in copper, with Michigan next. The profits in this metal were the greatest ever known.

WHY LUMBER WORKERS STRIKE.

Bellingham, Wash., Jan. 6.—The Clear Lake Lumber company, in Skagit county, has issued a circular to its competitors stating that it has raised the board of all workers to $7 a week and 40 cents per meal for any time less than one week. Other lumber companies are urged to do likewise. "If you don't," it is stated, "it is simply an indirect way of boosting wages, and we think all agree that the wages are high enough at the present time, in fact, higher than the lumber industry can stand. We believe they are so high that it is lowering the efficiency of labor instead of improving it."

The rates for common labor in the lumber camps are $1.75 and $2 a day.

DEMAND HUMANE TREATMENT.

Allentown, Pa., Jan. 6.—Decent and humane treatment is one of the reasons why employes of the Lehigh Star Bedding company are now on strike. Other demands include a wage increase of 20 per cent for piece workers and 15 per cent for day workers. The strikers say they are forced to work long hours under a speeding up system. In answer to the "high wage" claim of the company it is stated that one employe was paid $25 for a week of 70 hours. In a statement issued to the public, the strikers say:

"We are prepared to prove that an official of the company tried to incite violence early in the strike in order to discredit the workers."

ADVICE TO STRIKERS.

San Francisco, Jan. 6.—In discussing the recent culinary strike and the lessons to be remembered as a result of this strike, the Labor Clarion offers this advice:

"Under no circumstances should members of a union who are unfamiliar with its past affairs, its present resources and the mechanism of the labor movement which can be called into play in an emergency, be listened to in directing the conduct of strikes."

STATE CARPENTERS TO MEET.

Akron, Ohio, Jan. 6.—The third annual convention of the state council of carpenters will be held in this city Monday, February 5. At this time plans will be considered to organize smaller cities and strengthen weaker locals.